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Message Text

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15
ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

OMB-01 AID-20 RSR-01 /101 W
---------- 025333
R 251111 Z APR 73
FM AMCONSUL LAHORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9540
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMCONSUL KARACHI

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E. O. 11652: N/ A
TAGS: PINT, PK
SUBJECT: PPP FACTIONALISM

1. ON APRIL 23, PRESS TRUST DAILY IMROZE REPORTED THAT PUNJAB HOUSING MINISTER MUMTAZ AHMAD KAHLOAN TOLD NEWSMEN IN BHALWAL, NEAR SARGHODA, THAT GOVERNOR KHAR, ACTING IN HIS CAPACITY AS GENERAL SECRETARY OF PUNJAB PPP, HAD REMOVED SEVERAL LOCAL PPP LEADERS FROM PARTY ROLES. MEN INVOLVED WERE ALLEGEDLY CHARGED WITH CREATING HATRED AGAINST PPP UNDER LEADERSHIP OF FORMER LAW MINISTER MAHMUD ALI KASURI AND FOR COOPERATING WITH REBEL MUKHTAR RANA GROUP OF LYALLPUR.

2. IN LAHORE ON APRIL 23, GOP HEALTH MINISTER SHEIKH RASHID TOLD NEWSMEN THAT REPORTS OF EXPULSION OF BHALWAL MEMBERS FROM PPP WERE BASELESS. HE DENIED THEY HAD ESTABLISHED LINKS WITH EITHER KASURI OR RANA GROUPS AND STATED THAT ONLY PARTY CHAIR-MAN BHUTTO HAD POWER TO EXPEL PARTY MEMBERS.

3. COMMENT: LEFTIST HEALTH MINISTER AND GOVERNOR HAVE LONG BEEN RIVALS IN PUNJAB PPP AND LEAD THE TWO MOST INFLUENTIAL PARTY FACTIONS IN PROVINCE. THEIR DIFFERENCES HAVE BEEN SUBORDINATED FOR SEVERAL MONTHS BY PARTY DISCIPLINE AND THE
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STRUGGLE TO PASS THE CONSTITUTION, BUT APPEAR NOW TO HAVE BECOME PUBLIC PROPERTY ONCE AGAIN. KHAR TOLD CG APRIL 16 THAT HE PLANNED TO DEVOTE HIS ENERGIES TO REORGANIZATION OF PPP THROUGHOUT PUNJAB (LAHORE 0404). WE EXPECT HIS EFFORTS MAY WELL LEAD TO FURTHER CONFLICTS WITH SHEIKH RASHID AS EACH MAN ATTEMPTS TO PROTECT OR ENLARGE HIS POLITICAL BASE. AS SEEN FROM LAHORE, GOVERNOR' S POSITION IS STRONGER; HE IS CLOSER TO PARTY CHAIRMAN BHUTTO AND HAS EFFECTIVELY EXPLOITED HIS KEY POSITION TO EXTEND HIS INFLUENCE IN PROVINCE.
DECONTROL DEC 31, 1976
KING

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Subject: PPP FACTIONALISM
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To: ISLAMABAD
KARACHI
NEA
SECSTATE WASHDC
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